

Colonoscopic cancer screening is more cost-effective than fecal occult blood testing and flexible sigmoidoscopy

Screening for colorectal cancer is generally recognized as a cost-effective preventive health measure. However, a number of screening modalities exist, and there is no clear consensus as to the optimal procedure. This paper suggests that twice-lifetime colonoscopy is a preferred procedure compared to fecal occult-blood testing or flexible sigmoidoscopy, particularly at real-world levels of compliance. Colonoscopy also requires less frequent testing and, thus, may be more acceptable to patients. Therefore, healthcare systems may want to use colonoscopic screening, instead of the commonly recommended fecal occult-blood testing or flexible sigmoidoscopy, in order to most efficiently reduce mortality from colorectal cancer. *Vijan S, Hwang E, Hofer TP, Hayward RA. Screening strategies for colon cancer: Flexible sigmoidoscopy and fecal occult-blood testing versus colonoscopic screening. Journal of General Internal Medicine. 1997; 12 (Suppl. 1). Contact: Sandeep Vijan, MD, (734) 930-5100, e-mail at svijan@umich.edu.*